

Library

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Lostwithiel.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1959.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Cottrell, the Borough Surveyor, and to Mr. Watts for their continued help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

(sgd.) JAMES TURNER

Medical Officer of Health





SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) 3050

Population (estimated mid-year) 1970

(Number of Inhabited Houses 686  
(Rateable value £19,366  
(Product of a Penny Rate £77

					<u>Rate per 1,000 Population</u> <u>England and Wales</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Lostwithiel</u>	
Legitimate	15	12			
Illegitimate	1	0	28	14	
Corrected for comparison with other areas					16.5
Illegitimate birth per cent of total live births					3.6%

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>		Nil		Nil	<u>Rate per 1,000 Live and</u> <u>Still Births</u> 20.7
<u>Total Live and</u> <u>Still Births</u>	16	12	28		

INFANT DEATHS Nil

INFANT MORTALITY

Total	Nil	<u>Rate per 1,000 Live</u> <u>Births</u> 22.0
Legitimate	Nil	
Illegitimate	Nil	

NEO-NATAL DEATHS

Under 4 weeks	Nil	15.8
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EARLY NEO-NATAL DEATHS

Under 1 week	Nil	<u>Rate per 1,000 Live and</u> <u>Still Births</u>
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PERI-NATAL DEATHS

Still births and deaths under 1 week	Nil	34.2
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MATERNAL DEATHS

Nil 0.38

DEATHS (all ages and causes)

	12	13	25	<u>Rate per 1,000 Popu-</u> <u>lation</u>
Corrected for comparison with other areas				12.5 8.87 11.6

The following table gives the causes of death in accordance with the International Abbreviated List (1948)

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	3
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	1
18. Coronary disease angina	3	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	1
20. Other heart disease	1	3
21. Other circulatory disease	1	1
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	1	2
24. Bronchitis	-	-

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	-
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34. All other accidents	-	-
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
<u>ALL CAUSES</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>

The following short table gives the numbers of those dying in the age groups indicated:-

<u>Age Group</u>		
0-1 year	-	-
1-59 years	2	2
60-69 years	2	3
70-79 years	3	2
80-89 years	5	4
90 and over	-	2

Average age at death                      Males 71.2 years  
    Females 75.8 years

The following table gives the percentage contribution of the main causes of death. As the figures in any one year are small and fluctuate widely I have averaged over the past ten years.

(Average 1949-1959)  
Lostwithiel

England and Wales (1958)

Tuberculosis	1.9 *	0.9
All cancer	16.7	18.2
Vascular lesions of Central nervous system	14.7	14.5
Diseases of circulatory system	43.4	37.5
Diseases of respiratory system	6.3	11.5
Diseases of digestive system	1.6	2.9
Diseases of genito-urinary system	2.4	2.0
Congenital malformations	0.4	2.7
Accidents, violence etc.	7.5	4.3

\* no deaths since 1953

Generally speaking, respiratory deaths are about half those of England and Wales over the whole of Cornwall.

SECTION A

Lostwithiel is a quiet country town set in pleasant surroundings in the valley of the Fowey River. The town has many historic associations and has some very well preserved buildings. The only industry of any consequence is the milk depot.

There is a considerable rise in the population during the summer months caused by the influx of visitors.



## SECTION B

### General Provisions of Health Service

#### Public Health Office

- (1) Medical Officer of Health, J.G.S. Turner, M.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,  
Area Health Office, Moorland Road, St. Austell  
Telephone: St. Austell 2206
- (2) Public Health Inspector L.J. Cottrell.

Laboratory Facilities. These are available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where all material is sent for investigation.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. Supplies of diphtheria prophylactic alone, and in various combinations with whooping cough vaccine and tetanus toxoid are available at the Area Health Office. Poliomyelitis vaccine has been readily available and is issued on request.

Ambulance Facilities. The control of ambulances has passed from the Area Health Office to a special control centre at Truro. There will be no change in availability and the method of obtaining an ambulance is unchanged.

NURSING IN THE HOME There is one District Nurse, Midwife-Health Visitor, who is able to cope with all demands.

HOME HELP. This service has worked well and thanks are due to Mrs. Liddicoat and to Mrs. Clark, who administer the service.

A total of five cases were helped.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. There is no clinic but as the nurse visits regularly in the home, the health of the children is well supervised.

HOSPITALS. There are no hospitals in the area and patients are sent to St. Austell, Bodmin, Fowey, Truro and Redruth. Patients with infectious diseases are sent to Truro Isolation Hospital when necessary.

## SECTION C.

### Water Supply

A sufficient and pure water supply was afforded at all times in spite of the nation-wide drought, though supplies were taxed to the limit.

Average daily consumption approximately 80,000 g.p.d. Participation in the Fowey River Joint Water Scheme was effectively implemented, and the Borough's contribution is calculated at £10,326 out of a total £563,922.

Further, Lostwithiel Borough has engaged Consultants to improve their internal distribution system, when the water from the Fowey River Joint Scheme becomes available. A scheme totalling some £10,000 has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry, for improving the head of water to limits of supply. This scheme includes the construction of a 100,000 gallon service reservoir in the Collebeacon Area and new mains in a portion of the town. Samples of water are taken fortnightly from each source of supply both before and after chlorination. Results have proved satisfactory.

No. of samples taken	26
Results satisfactory	20
Results unsatisfactory	6 *

Some examples of reports:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place of Sample</u>	<u>Coliformbacilli</u> <u>McConkey</u> <u>2 days. 37°C</u>	<u>B. Coli.</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
8.1.59.	Church Park Wood	3	1	Satisfactory
6.4.59.	Tap, Council Yard	0	0	do.
10.9.59.	Collebeacon Reservoir	0	0	do.
19.9.59.	Tap, House, Barn Park	0	0	do.

\* Unsatisfactory sampling technique

#### Sewerage.

No progress has been made concerning a sewage disposal scheme for the town. The Ministry has indicated that no consideration can be given for a grant towards the £80,000 scheme submitted to them.

I suggest that strong representation be made to the Ministry indicating the necessity for a scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the town for at the moment Council house building is impossible before improvements are made to existing arrangements.

#### SECTION D

#### Housing.

Visits of Inspection re housing conditions totalled 216. Informal notices and interviews with landlords numbering 123 secured the necessary repair work. In the remainder of cases complaints concerned neighbours' disagreements, application for Council houses, overcrowding and minor complaints.



## Housing of Old People

The proposal to acquire a site in Tangier for the erection of Old People's bungalows was advanced and outline planning permission for the proposal was obtained. It is hoped to build eight or ten bungalows on this site in the near future.

## Housing Improvements

Following the "House Purchase and Housing Act 1959" and the introduction of the Standard Grant the Council decided to operate the whole of the financial provisions of the Housing Acts providing for improvement and conversion.

Full use has been made of these provisions for the installation of bathrooms etc. and the modernisation of old properties.

Applications for standard grants	6.	Approved 6.
Applications for improvement grants	2.	Approved 2.

## SECTION E

## Meat and other foods

The bulk of meat sold in the area is imported from Liskeard or St.Austell.

Slaughtering is carried out in one slaughterhouse for an owner/occupier family butcher. The standard of animals slaughtered is very high. The beef is prime young bullocks with occasional lambs and pigs in their seasons.

### Summary of Meat Inspections

	<u>Cattle excluding</u> <u>cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	50	-	-	50	52
Number inspected	48	-	-	48	52
All diseases except Tuber- culosis - whole carcasses condemned	Nil	-	-	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	2	2

	<u>Cattle excluding cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	6.2%	-	-	40%	3.3%
Tuberculosis only - whole carcasses condemned	Nil	-	-	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	-	-	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	-	-	Nil	Nil
C. bovis infection	Nil	-	-	Nil	Nil

#### Other Foods

Small quantities of tinned goods are inspected upon request from various retailers in the town. As a result small quantities of tinned foods are condemned, mainly as a result of decomposition or damaged tins.

Foods condemned -	Corned beef	6 lbs.
	Tinned ham	91 lbs.

#### Milk

Periodic visits are made to retailers in the town and inspections are carried out. The three retailers' premises were found to be satisfactory.

#### Cafes, Restaurants and Food Preparing Premises

Visits of inspection are made to food preparing premises in the town including cafes and restaurants. The standard of cleanliness was found to be satisfactory.

### SECTION F

#### Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases

The following notifications were received:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Number of Cases 1959</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Population</u>		
		<u>Lostwithiel</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>	
		<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1959</u>
Scarlet fever	5	0.5	2.5	1.05
Whooping cough	2	0.5	1.0	0.73
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	0.0	0.5	0.03
Measles	3	0.0	1.5	11.8
Pneumonia	3	0.0	1.5	0.59

### Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children at 31st December, 1959, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1945).

<u>Age at 31/12/59</u>	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1-4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>Under 15 years</u>
<u>i.e. born in year</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958-55</u>	<u>1954-50</u>	<u>1949-45</u>	<u>Total</u>
(1) Last complete course of injections (primary or booster)					
(a) 1955-1959	10	82	94	84	270
(b) 1945-1954	-	-	61	158	219
(2) Estimated mid- year child population	28	90	155	166	439
(3) Immunity Index i.e. 100 <u>(1)</u> <u>(a)</u> <u>(2)</u>	35.7	91.1	60.7	50.6	61.5

### Smallpox Vaccination

Twenty two persons received primary vaccination.

### Vaccination against poliomyelitis

As polio vaccine became more readily available there was a considerable extension of vaccination and the offer to vaccinate was raised to include those aged up to 26 years.

Altogether 369 persons have been given three injections and a large number one or two injections.

Tuberculosis

The number of cases on the register at the end of the year was as follows:-  
(The figures in brackets are those for 1958)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	3(4)	3(2)	6/6)
Non-pulmonary	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)

During the year there were no new cases. One male patient came into the area and later moved away and there was one recovery. One female case came to live in Lostwithiel.

One person was given B.C.G. vaccine. Figures relating to B.C.G. vaccination in children who are examined in their 14th year at school are given in the reports relating to the area in which the school is situated.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories to which Sections 1-6 are enforced by Local Authorities	14	28	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	4	8	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	18	36	Nil	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

There were none.